

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02982 141102 Z

10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 071248

O 141045 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8105

INFO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2982

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, IS EG

SUBJECT: MIRAGES IN EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 1116

1. WHILE WE CAN NEVER RULE OUT ANYTHING IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND WILL KEEP OUR EYES AND EARS OPEN FOR INDICATORS, WE WOULD DOUBT THAT GOI PLANNING STRIKE AT EGYPTIAN AIRFIELDS TO KNOCK OUT MIRAGES.
2. WE DO NOT THINK THAT ISRAELIS CARRY OUT MILITARY OPERATIONS FOR ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL PURPOSES AND THEREFORE IDEA THAT THEY WOULD HIT MIRAGES TO SOFTEN SADAT UP FOR NEGOTIATIONS DOES NOT RING TRUE. THEY WOULD CONSIDER THIS KIND OF OPERATION, IN OUR VIEW, ONLY IF THEY FELT THAT PRESENCE OF MIRAGES POSED ACTUAL MILITARY THREAT TO ISRAEL SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME OBVIOUS DISADVANTAGES (INCLUDING POSSIBLE LOSSES DUE TO EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSES) THAT ATTACK WOULD INCUR. WE SEE NO INDICATIONS THAT ISRAELIS CONSIDER AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION THAT KIND OF A THREAT. (PARA 3 USDAO TEL AVIV 0568 DTG 131455 Z APR 73).
3. WE THINK ISRAELIS WILL WANT TO USE MIRAGE TRANSFER (IF IT HAS OCCURRED) PRINCIPALLY IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, TO SHOW UP WHAT THEY CONSIDER BIASED FRENCH POLICY IN DENYING ARMS TO ISRAEL AS " PARTICIPANT" IN ME FIGHTING WHILE SUPPLYING ARMS TO LIBYA AS " NON-SECRET

SECRET

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PARTICIPANT." THEY WILL HOPE TO EMBARRASS FRENCH GOVT, AND
ALSO TO EMBARRASS FRENCH- LIBYAN RELATIONS IF THEY
CAN FORCE FRENCH INTO PUBLIC AVOWAL THAT AIRCRAFT HAVE
IN FACT BEEN TRANSFERRED TO EGYPT.
ZURHELLEN

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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